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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/799,274 02/13/97 ECKHARDT

C

EXAMINER

LM61/0304

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APPIAH, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2742

DATE MAILED:

03/04/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/799,274

Applicant(s)
Eckhardt

Examiner
Charles Appiah

Group Art Unit
2742



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 13, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 12-14 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☒ The drawing(s) filed on Feb 13, 1997 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 8 recites the limitation "said releasable connection" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 5-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Oliwa et al. (4856088)**.

Regarding Claims 1 and 7, **Oliwa** discloses an appliance with reference to **FIG.1** comprising an indicating device (32), means forming an outer surface (11), provided with a throughgoing

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opening (recess **20**) for receiving said indicating device; means forming an edge region (inner part of recess **20**) which surrounds said throughgoing opening and is depressed relative to the outer surface, the edge region being formed so that a decorative part (the display module **12**) is insertable in said edge region; and means for releasably connecting (behind one or more of these contacts are magnets which will be used to secure the display module **12** to the enclosure **11** within the recess **20**, see col.2 lines 21-26) the decorative part with the edge region.

Regarding Claim 5, **Oliwa** further discloses a throughgoing opening for receiving said indicating device (opening within display module **12** through which display element **32** is inserted, see FIG.1).

Regarding Claims 6 and 7, **Oliwa** further discloses that the decorative part has a plurality of additional throughgoing openings for receiving keys, (plurality of buttons **34,36,38** see col.2 line 30).

Regarding claim 8 **Oliwa** further teaches that the releasable connection includes an arresting connection, (behind the contact **22** is a magnet **56** which will attract a similar magnet **58** of opposite polarity within the display module, see col.3 lines 12-14).

Regarding Claims 9 and 10, **Oliwa** further teaches that the arresting connection includes an arresting projection provided on the decorative part (mating contact **30** on the display module, see col. 3 lines 22-23) and an arresting opening provided on the edge region (slot or groove **60** into which a lip on the contact is engaged, see col.3 lines 18-19) in which the arresting projection is engageable.

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Regarding Claim 12 and 14, Oliwa further teaches the edge region is depressed in a two-step manner relative to the outer surface, (see FIG.3 and also a sealing ring 62 may also be provided, col.3 lines 23-24).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Oliwa et al.(4856088)**.

Oliwa teaches what has been discussed in the rejection of Claim 1 above including the means for the removable attachment of the display module, (see col.1 lines 65-67).

Oliwa does not teach that the means for releasably connecting is formed as a double-sided adhesive connection. The examiner, takes official notice that it is well known that there are various means of holding removable parts of a device or appliance together like adhesives, screws, magnets etc. It would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the magnetic connections in Oliwa's appliance with any type of connection that would securely hold the

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removable part of the appliance the motivation being the ease of removal in case a repair needs to be made or a better access to the part is required.

8. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Oliwa et al. (4856088)**.

See the explanation as set forth in the rejection of Claim 1 citing **Oliwa** who in addition also teaches that the display module **12** is removable from the enclosure **11**, (see col. 2 lines 15-16).

Oliwa does not specifically teach that the decorative part and the edge region are arranged so that a gap is provided between said decorative part and said edge region for receiving a tool in order to release said connection. It would have been obvious that one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the fact that **Oliwa** teaches a removable display in a throughgoing hole to provide a gap, thus making it possible to be able to remove the display module by a tool like a screwdriver or one's finger for repair, and also to prevent an unauthorized person from reading confidential messages on someone's display.

Claim Objections

9. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to Claim 13, **Oliwa** discloses a sealing ring **62** which limits the

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throughgoing opening as a deeper step, however, it fails to comprise "a transparent disk which covers the indicating device".

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Satou (5253139), teaches a portable electronic apparatus having a detachable display unit.

Schultz et al. (5679943), teaches a hand-held terminal with modular display screens.

Evans et al. (4478521), teaches a digital time meter with detachable displays.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Appiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-4772. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Krista Zele, can be reached on (703) 305-4701.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900. The fax number for this Group is (703) 308-5403.

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CA

Charles Appiah

February 20, 1998.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krista Zele', written in a cursive style.

KRISTA ZELE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700